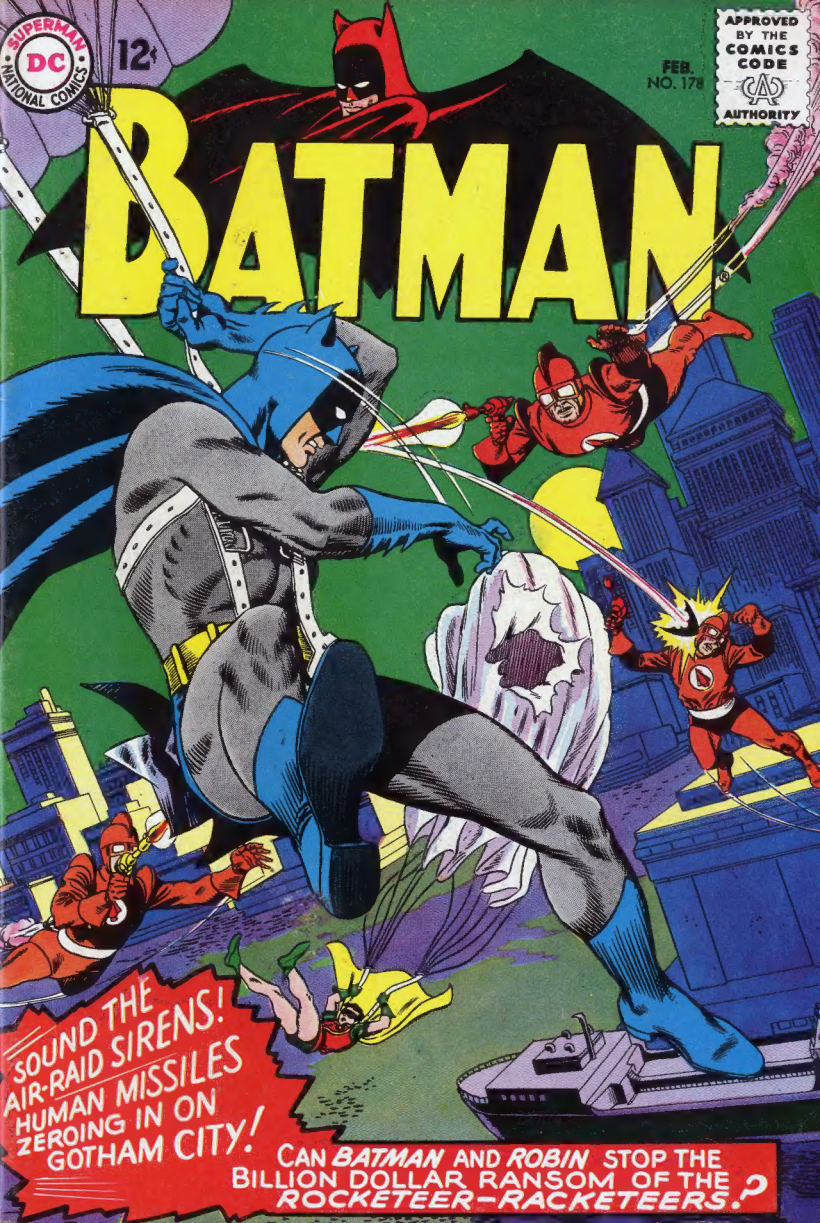
SUPERMAN
DC
NATIONAL COMICS
12¢
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
FEB.
NO. 178
BATMAN
SOUND THE AIR-RAID SIRENS! HUMAN MISSILES ZEROING IN ON GOTHAM CITY!
CAN BATMAN AND ROBIN STOP THE BILLION DOLLAR RANSOM OF THE ROCKETEER-RACKETEERS?

POLARIS NUCLEAR SUB

OVER 7 FEET LONG

Big Enough For 2 Kids

FIRES ROCKETS and TORPEDOES

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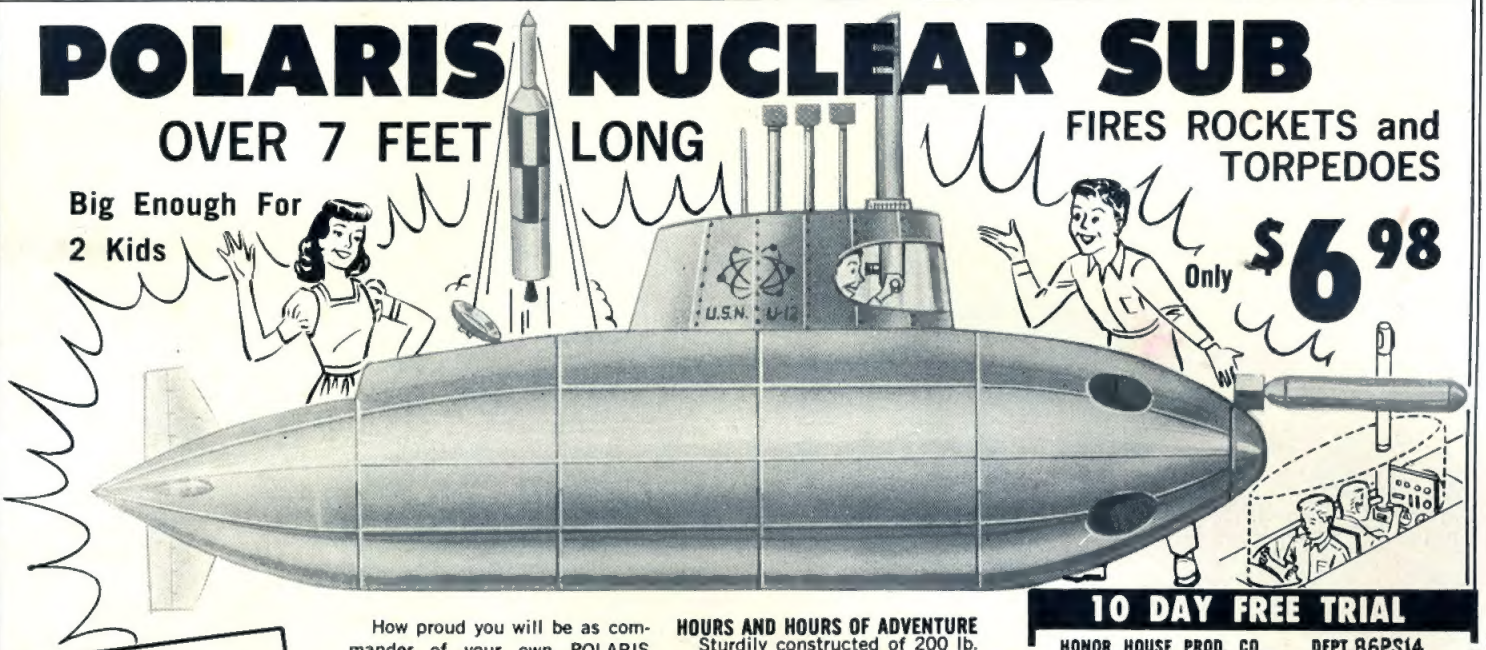

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GOTHAM CITY FACES THE MOST TERRIBLE DOOM KNOWN TO MAN! AND THE ONLY TWO HUMANS ON THE FACE OF THIS EARTH WHO HAVE A MILLION-TO-ONE CHANCE OF AVERTING THIS FANTASTIC THREAT--BATMAN AND ROBIN--ARE TRAPPED INSIDE IT! RIDE A THUNDERBOLT OF ACTION AND SIZZLING SUSPENSE WITH THE DYNAMIC DUO IN THE EARTH—SHAKING SENSATION...
BATMAN
With ROBIN THE BOY WONDER
RAID OF THE ROCKETEERS!
VRROOOM!
VROOOOM!
VRROOOM!
WE'RE BEING DIVE—BOMBED BY THE ROCKETEERS!
THOSE ROCKET-HEADS SURE MAKE A RACKET!
BOB KANE

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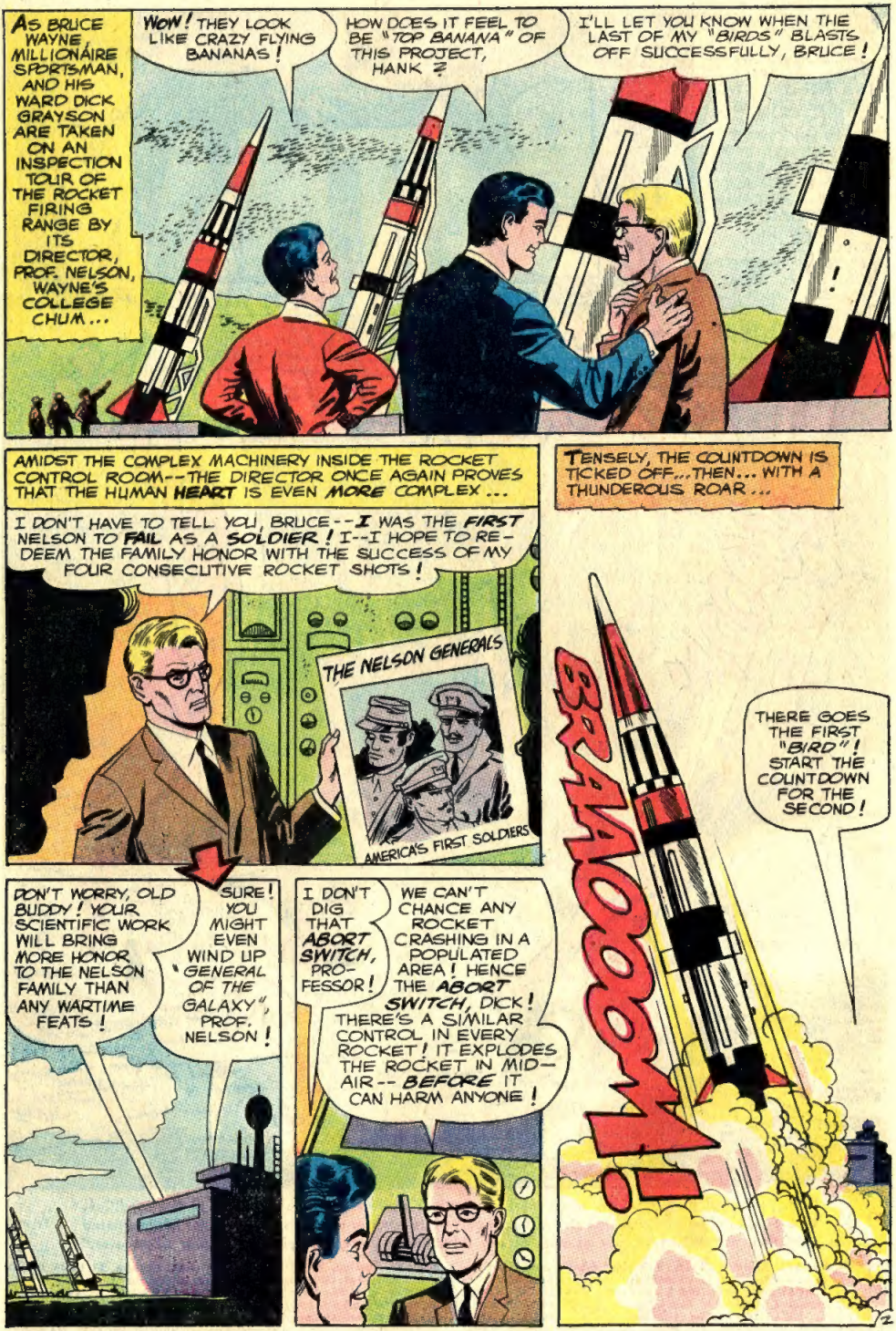
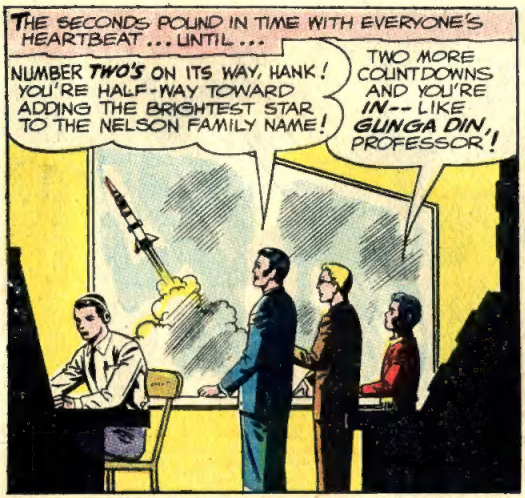
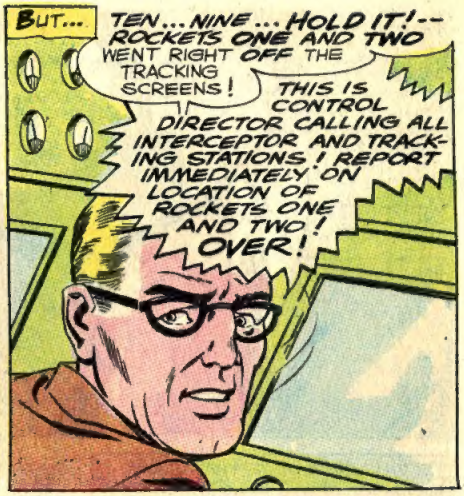

AS BRUCE WAYNE, MILLIONAIRE SPORTSMAN, AND HIS WARD DICK GRAYSON ARE TAKEN ON AN INSPECTION TOUR OF THE ROCKET FIRING RANGE BY ITS DIRECTOR, PROF. NELSON, WAYNE'S COLLEGE CHUM...
WOW! THEY LOOK LIKE CRAZY FLYING BANANAS!
HOW DOES IT FEEL TO BE "TOP BANANA" OF THIS PROJECT, HANK?
I'LL LET YOU KNOW WHEN THE LAST OF MY "BIRDS" BLASTS OFF SUCCESSFULLY, BRUCE!
AMIDST THE COMPLEX MACHINERY INSIDE THE ROCKET CONTROL ROOM--THE DIRECTOR ONCE AGAIN PROVES THAT THE HUMAN HEART IS EVEN MORE COMPLEX...
I DON'T HAVE TO TELL YOU, BRUCE--I WAS THE FIRST NELSON TO FAIL AS A SOLDIER! I--I HOPE TO REDEEM THE FAMILY HONOR WITH THE SUCCESS OF MY FOUR CONSECUTIVE ROCKET SHOTS!
THE NELSON GENERALS
AMERICA'S FIRST SOLDIERS
TENSELY, THE COUNTDOWN IS TICKED OFF...THEN... WITH A THUNDEROUS ROAR...
BRAAOOOM!
THERE GOES THE FIRST "BIRD"! START THE COUNTDOWN FOR THE SECOND!
DON'T WORRY, OLD BUDDY! YOUR SCIENTIFIC WORK WILL BRING MORE HONOR TO THE NELSON FAMILY THAN ANY WARTIME FEATS!
SURE! YOU MIGHT EVEN WIND UP "GENERAL OF THE GALAXY", PROF. NELSON!
I DON'T DIG THAT ABORT SWITCH, PROFESSOR!
WE CAN'T CHANCE ANY ROCKET CRASHING IN A POPULATED AREA! HENCE THE ABORT SWITCH, DICK!
THERE'S A SIMILAR CONTROL IN EVERY ROCKET! IT EXPLODES THE ROCKET IN MID-AIR--BEFORE IT CAN HARM ANYONE!

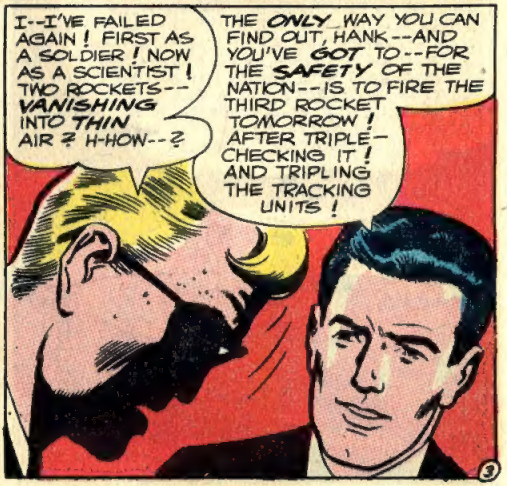

THE SECONDS POUND IN TIME WITH EVERYONE'S HEARTBEAT ... UNTIL ...
NUMBER TWO'S ON ITS WAY, HANK! YOU'RE HALF-WAY TOWARD ADDING THE BRIGHTEST STAR TO THE NELSON FAMILY NAME!
TWO MORE COUNTDOWNS AND YOU'RE IN-- LIKE GUNGA DIN, PROFESSOR!

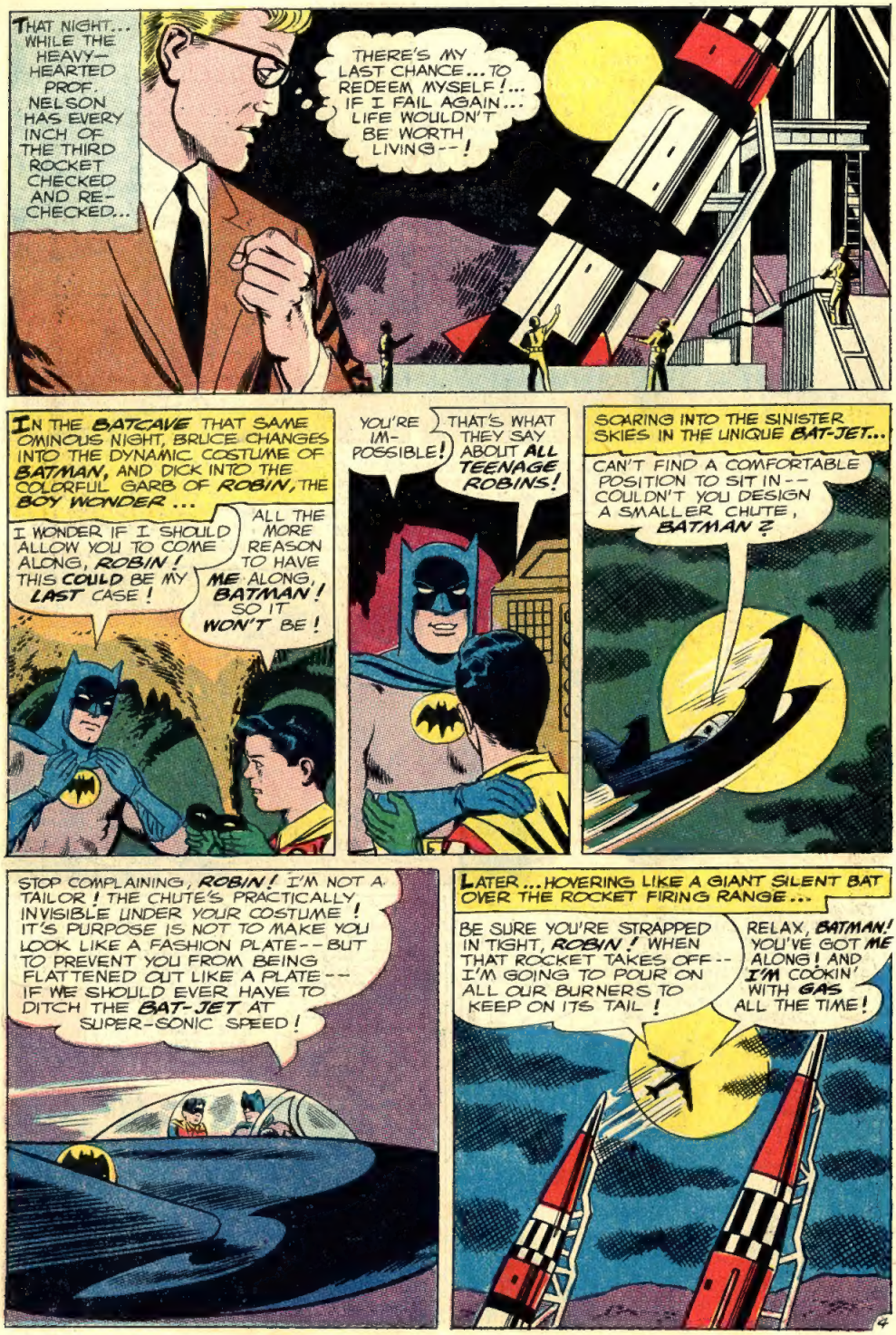

BUT...
TEN ... NINE ... HOLD IT!-- ROCKETS ONE AND TWO WENT RIGHT OFF THE TRACKING SCREENS!
THIS IS CONTROL DIRECTOR CALLING ALL INTERCEPTOR AND TRACKING STATIONS! REPORT IMMEDIATELY ON LOCATION OF ROCKETS ONE AND TWO! OVER!

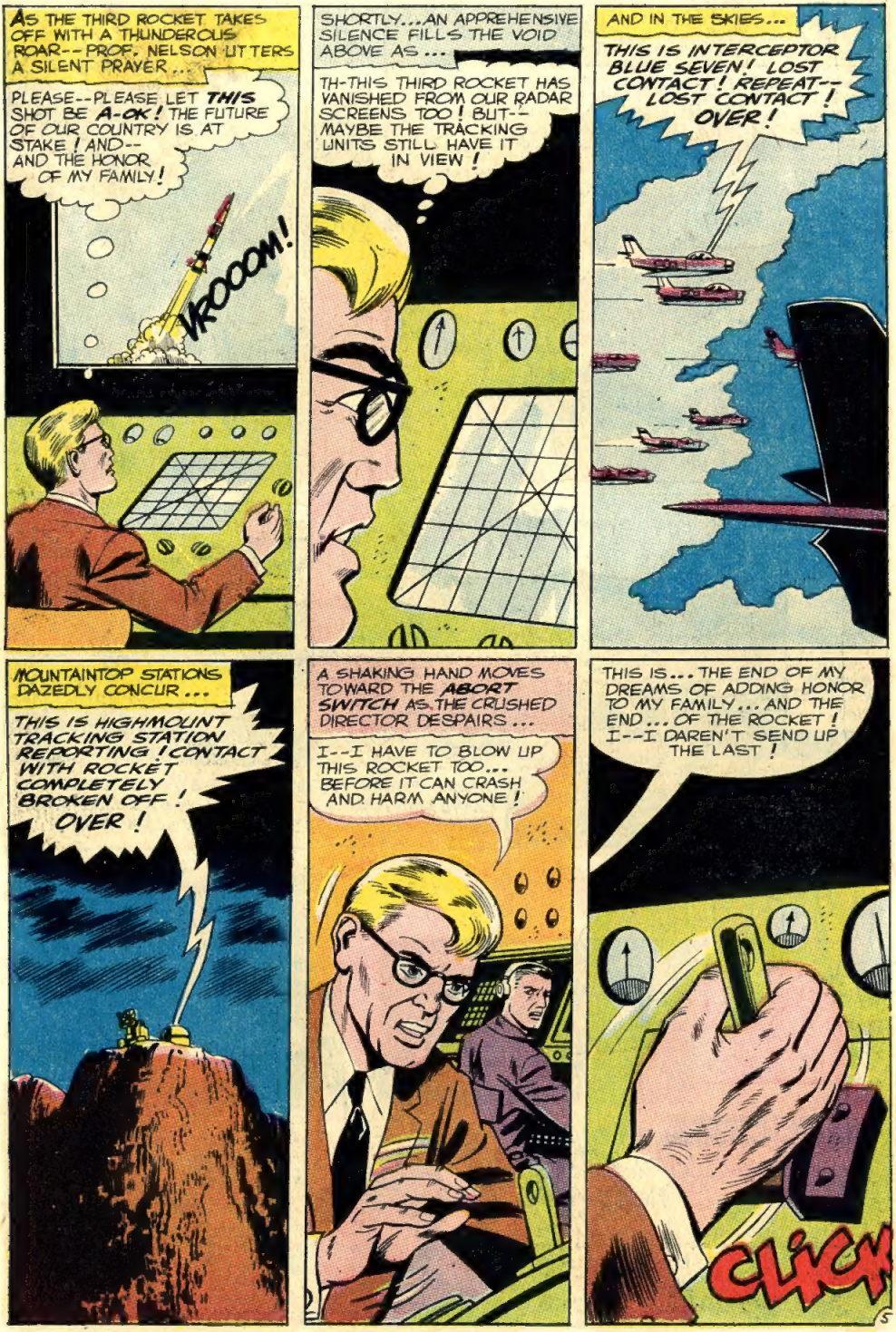
FIRST TO REPORT IS ...
THIS IS ARMY INTERCEPTOR BLUE SEVEN! LOST CONTACT WITH BOTH ROCKETS! OVER!... THIS IS HIGH-MOUNT TRACKING STATION! OUR SCREENS SHOW NO SIGN OF ROCKETS! OVER!.. THIS IS...

THIS IS CONTROL DIRECTOR! CALLING ALL STATIONS! I'M ABORTING BOTH ROCKETS IMMEDIATELY! THE NOISE OF THE EXPLOSIONS SHOULD ENABLE YOU TO GET A FIX ON THE POSITIONS OF THE ROCKETS! REPORT BACK AS SOON AS YOU DO! OVER!
CLICK!

THIS IS INTERCEPTOR BLUE SEVEN! NEGATIVE! OVER!... THIS IS HIGHMOUNT TRACKING STATION!... NO SOUND RECORDED ON SEISMOGRAPH EQUIPMENT! OVER!... THIS IS OCEANS 11 TRACKING STATION!... CAN'T PICK UP A PEEP! OVER!... THIS IS...


I--I'VE FAILED AGAIN! FIRST AS A SOLDIER! NOW AS A SCIENTIST! TWO ROCKETS-- VANISHING INTO THIN AIR? H-HOW--?
THE ONLY WAY YOU CAN FIND OUT, HANK--AND YOU'VE GOT TO--FOR THE SAFETY OF THE NATION--IS TO FIRE THE THIRD ROCKET TOMORROW! AFTER TRIPLE-CHECKING IT! AND TRIPLING THE TRACKING UNITS!


THAT NIGHT... WHILE THE HEAVY-HEARTED PROF. NELSON HAS EVERY INCH OF THE THIRD ROCKET CHECKED AND RE-CHECKED...
THERE'S MY LAST CHANCE... TO REDEEM MYSELF!... IF I FAIL AGAIN... LIFE WOULDN'T BE WORTH LIVING--!
IN THE BATCAVE THAT SAME OMINOUS NIGHT, BRUCE CHANGES INTO THE DYNAMIC COSTUME OF BATMAN, AND DICK INTO THE COLORFUL GARB OF ROBIN, THE BOY WONDER ...
I WONDER IF I SHOULD ALLOW YOU TO COME ALONG, ROBIN! THIS COULD BE MY LAST CASE!
ALL THE MORE REASON TO HAVE ME ALONG, BATMAN! SO IT WON'T BE!
YOU'RE IM-POSSIBLE!
THAT'S WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT ALL TEENAGE ROBINS!
SOARING INTO THE SINISTER SKIES IN THE UNIQUE BAT-JET...
CAN'T FIND A COMFORTABLE POSITION TO SIT IN -- COULDN'T YOU DESIGN A SMALLER CHUTE, BATMAN?
STOP COMPLAINING, ROBIN! I'M NOT A TAILOR! THE CHUTE'S PRACTICALLY INVISIBLE UNDER YOUR COSTUME! IT'S PURPOSE IS NOT TO MAKE YOU LOOK LIKE A FASHION PLATE -- BUT TO PREVENT YOU FROM BEING FLATTENED OUT LIKE A PLATE -- IF WE SHOULD EVER HAVE TO DITCH THE BAT-JET AT SUPER-SONIC SPEED!
LATER... HOVERING LIKE A GIANT SILENT BAT OVER THE ROCKET FIRING RANGE...
BE SURE YOU'RE STRAPPED IN TIGHT, ROBIN! WHEN THAT ROCKET TAKES OFF -- I'M GOING TO POUR ON ALL OUR BURNERS TO KEEP ON ITS TAIL!
RELAX, BATMAN! YOU'VE GOT ME ALONG! AND I'M COOKIN' WITH GAS ALL THE TIME!


AS THE THIRD ROCKET TAKES OFF WITH A THUNDEROUS ROAR--PROF. NELSON UTTERS A SILENT PRAYER...
PLEASE--PLEASE LET THIS SHOT BE A-OK! THE FUTURE OF OUR COUNTRY IS AT STAKE! AND--AND THE HONOR OF MY FAMILY!
VROOOOM!
SHORTLY...AN APPREHENSIVE SILENCE FILLS THE VOID ABOVE AS...
TH-THIS THIRD ROCKET HAS VANISHED FROM OUR RADAR SCREENS TOO! BUT--MAYBE THE TRACKING UNITS STILL HAVE IT IN VIEW!
AND IN THE SKIES...
THIS IS INTERCEPTOR BLUE SEVEN! LOST CONTACT! REPEAT--LOST CONTACT! OVER!
MOUNTAINTOP STATIONS DAZEDLY CONCUR...
THIS IS HIGHMOUNT TRACKING STATION REPORTING! CONTACT WITH ROCKET COMPLETELY BROKEN OFF! OVER!
A SHAKING HAND MOVES TOWARD THE ABORT SWITCH AS THE CRUSHED DIRECTOR DESPAIRS...
I--I HAVE TO BLOW UP THIS ROCKET TOO... BEFORE IT CAN CRASH AND HARM ANYONE!
THIS IS... THE END OF MY DREAMS OF ADDING HONOR TO MY FAMILY... AND THE END... OF THE ROCKET! I--I DAREN'T SEND UP THE LAST!
CLICK

BUT, AT THAT VERY MOMENT, THE INCREDIBLE SPEED OF THE BAT-JET HURLS BATMAN AND ROBIN WITHIN SIGHT OF THE ROCKET JUST AS...

ROBIN--LOOK! THE ROCKET VANISHED OFF OUR TRACKING SCREEN THE MOMENT THAT STRANGE BEAM ENVELOPED IT--EVEN THOUGH WE CAN STILL SEE IT WITH THE NAKED EYE! THE BEAM MUST ACT LIKE A SHORT-CIRCUIT! CUTTING OFF ANY ELECTRONIC IMPULSES BETWEEN THE ROCKET AND ALL INSTRUMENTS IN CONTACT WITH IT!

IF THAT'S THE CASE--THEN THAT BEAM MUST HAVE ALSO STOPPED THE OTHER TWO MISSING ROCKETS FROM EXPLODING!

ANOTHER BEAM IS TAKING IT DOWN--TOWARD THAT ISLAND FAR BELOW!

IT'S ABOUT TIME WE GOT ON THE BEAM, BATMAN!

LIKE A SILENT BAT THE JET GLIDES TO A WHISPER-SOFT LANDING UNDER BAT-MAN'S SENSITIVE HANDS...

WE'LL LAND OUT OF SIGHT ON A NEIGHBORING ISLAND--AND SWIM TOWARD THE OTHER ISLAND--TO SEE WHAT DIABOLICAL VILLAIN STOLE THOSE THREE ROCKETS! AND WHY!

TOO BAD WE COULDN'T USE OUR SPECIAL CHUTES TO FLOAT DOWN!

END OF PART ONE! THE WHIRLWIND CONCLUSION TO "RAID of the ROCKETEERS!" STARTS ON THE 4TH PAGE FOLLOWING!

WARNING!

DO NOT SKIP PAST THIS AD--OR YOU WILL MISS OUT ON THE GREATEST COMIC BOOK SPECTRE-ACULAR IN OVER 20 YEARS!

THE SPECTRE IS COMING--
CLOSER--CLOSER--CLOSER--
He's HERE!

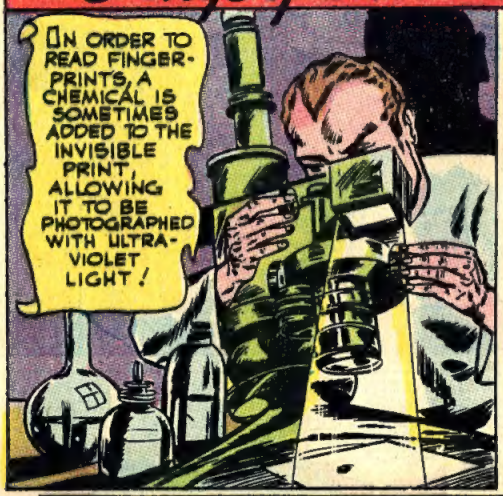
SHOWCASE
THE SPECTRE
A COMBAT OF COSMIC CHILLS BETWEEN THE GHOSTLY AVENGER AND A DARK DEMON IN A FULL-LENGTH SPECTRE-ACULAR...
The WAR THAT SHOOK THE UNIVERSE!

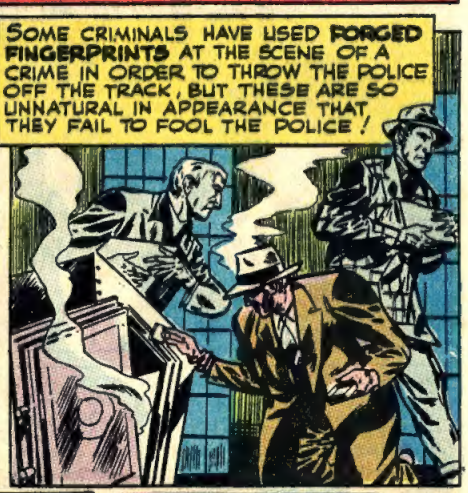
THE MOST FABULOUS HERO OF THE GOLDEN AGE OF COMICS! DON'T YOU DARE MISS THIS ISSUE!

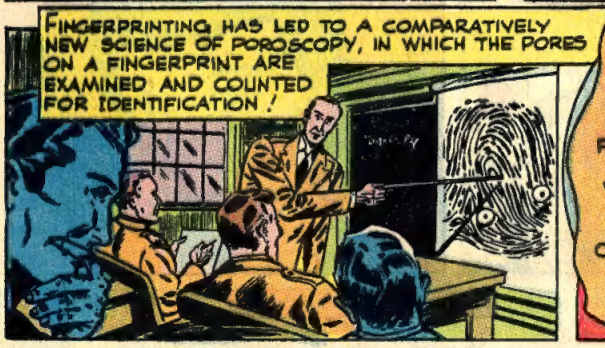
SUPERMAN · DC · NATIONAL COMICS

ON SALE NOV. 25th

Fingerprint ODDITIES!

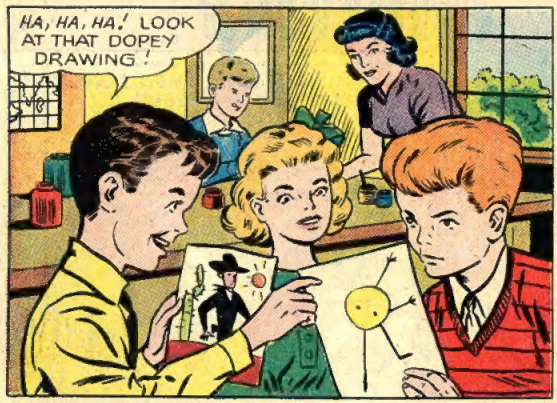

ON ORDER TO READ FINGER-PRINTS, A CHEMICAL IS SOMETIMES ADDED TO THE INVISIBLE PRINT, ALLOWING IT TO BE PHOTOGRAPHED WITH ULTRA-VIOLET LIGHT!


SOME CRIMINALS HAVE USED FORGED FINGERPRINTS AT THE SCENE OF A CRIME IN ORDER TO THROW THE POLICE OFF THE TRACK, BUT THESE ARE SO UNNATURAL IN APPEARANCE THAT THEY FAIL TO FOOL THE POLICE!


FINGERPRINTING HAS LED TO A COMPARATIVELY NEW SCIENCE OF POROSCOPY, IN WHICH THE PORES ON A FINGERPRINT ARE EXAMINED AND COUNTED FOR IDENTIFICATION!

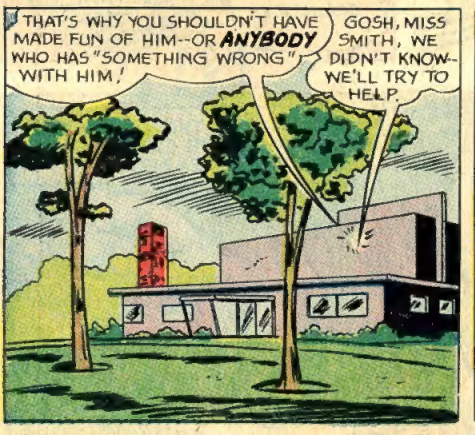
JOHN DILLINGER, THE NOTORIOUS GUNMAN, HAD HIS FINGERS TREATED BY SURGERY IN SEVERAL PLASTIC OPERATIONS, BUT THE FINGERPRINTS REMAINED UNCHANGED!
IN FACT, THE OPERATIVE SCARS MADE IDENTIFICATION EVEN EASIER!

The INVISIBLE HANDICAP!



YOU'RE RIGHT--SOMETHING IS WRONG WITH HIM. YOU WOULDN'T HAVE ACTED THAT WAY IF HE WERE BLIND OR LAME...SOMETHING YOU COULD SEE. BUT THIS NEW BOY HAPPENS TO HAVE A HANDICAP THAT'S INVISIBLE--DAMAGE TO PART OF THE BRAIN...

THERE ARE MORE LIKE HIM THAN MOST PEOPLE REALIZE... BECAUSE OF FAULTY PERCEPTION, HE DOESN'T SEE OR DO THINGS QUITE AS YOU DO, AND WE'RE TRYING TO HELP HIM ADJUST...


THAT'S WHY YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE MADE FUN OF HIM--OR ANYBODY WHO HAS "SOMETHING WRONG" WITH HIM!
GOSH, MISS SMITH, WE DIDN'T KNOW--WE'LL TRY TO HELP.

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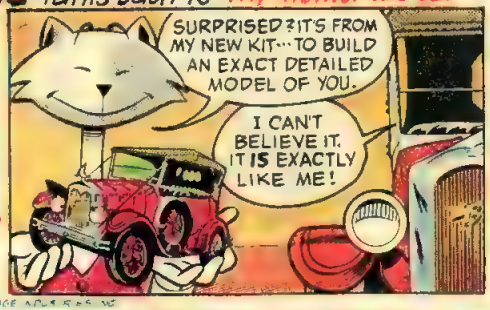
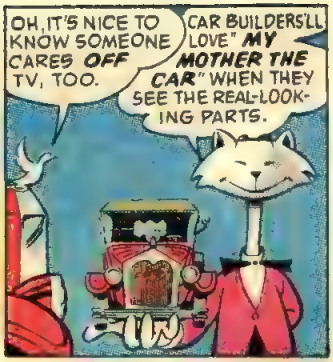
The KAT talks back to "My Mother The Car" ©

Visiting NBC TV THE KAT FROM AMT GETS A DOUBLE-TAKE from "MY MOTHER THE CAR".





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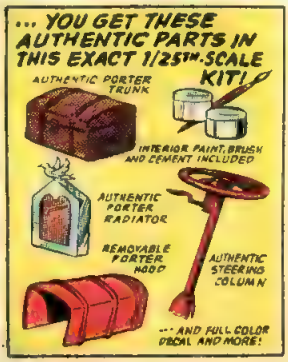
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INTERIOR PAINT, BRUSH AND CEMENT INCLUDED
AUTHENTIC PORTER RADIATOR
REMOVABLE PORTER HOOD
AUTHENTIC STEERING COLUMN
··· AND FULL COLOR DECAL AND MORE!

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BE THE FIRST TO GET AMT'S AUTHENTIC KIT OF "MY MOTHER THE CAR"! AT YOUR HOBBY OR DEPARTMENT STORE,

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RETURN IN THEIR MOST SHATTERING COMBAT TALES!... IN EXPLOSIVE ACTION THAT MAKES A TYPHOON JUST A TEMPEST IN A TEAPOT!

DC's MIGHTY 6!

ADMIRED EVEN BY THE ENEMY!

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EASY CO.'S SGT. ROCK!
THE "HAUNTED TANK'S" JEB STUART!
NAVAJO ACE JOHNNY CLOUD!
MUD MARINES GUNNER & SARGE with POOCH!
THE UNDERGROUND FIGHTER WITH TNT IN HER LIPSTICK-- MLLE. MARIE.

80 pg. GIANT
25¢
No. 164
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
OUR ARMY AT WAR with SGT. ROCK'S
6 BATTLE STARS
LT. JEB STUART OF THE HAUNTED TANK
SGT. ROCK of EASY Co.
MLLE MARIE
ACE CAPT. CLOUD
GUNNER & SARGE WITH POOCH
SPECIAL FROGMAN GUEST STAR IN A BATTLE BONUS STORY!
featuring THE MIGHTY 6 IN THEIR GREATEST COMBAT TALES!

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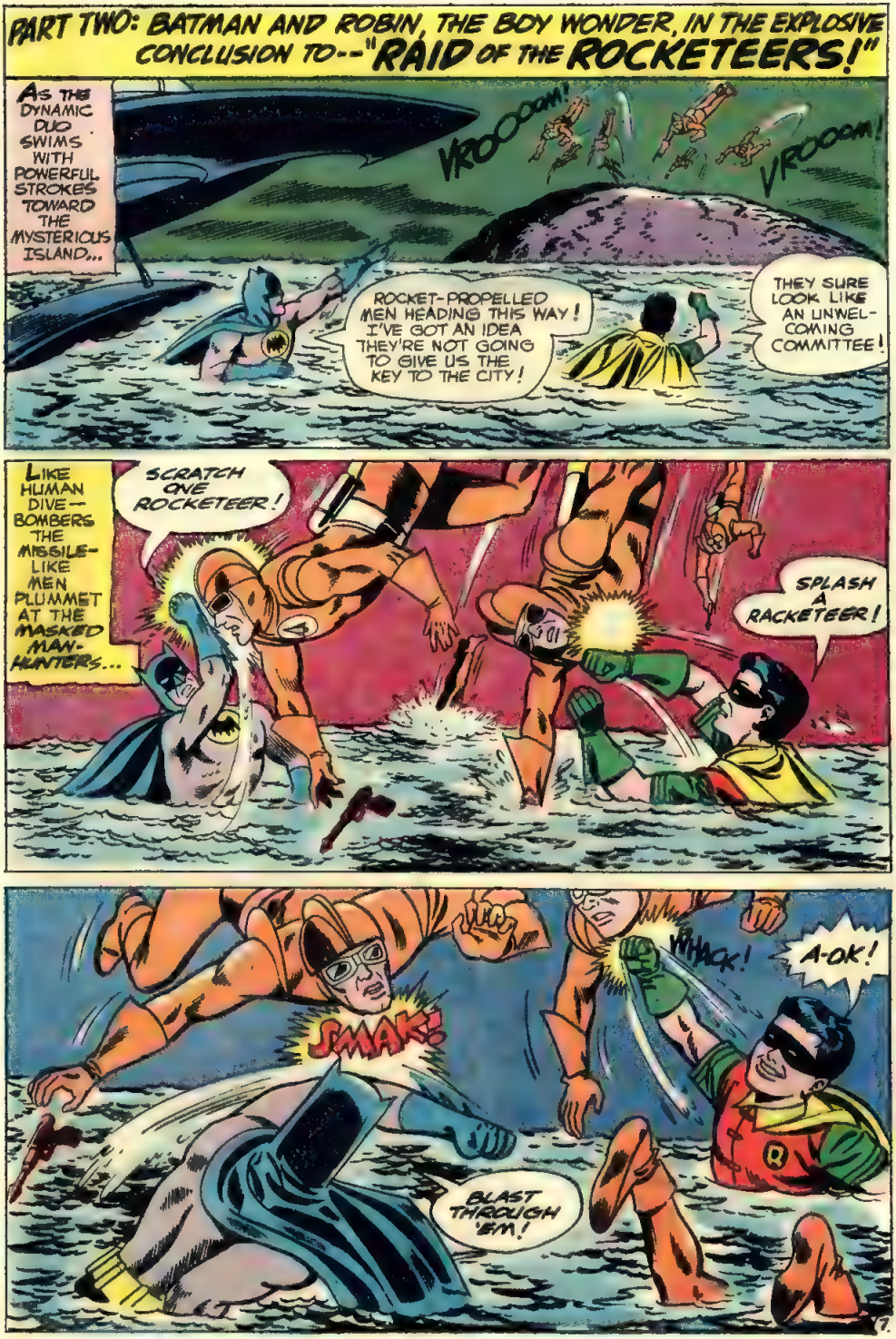
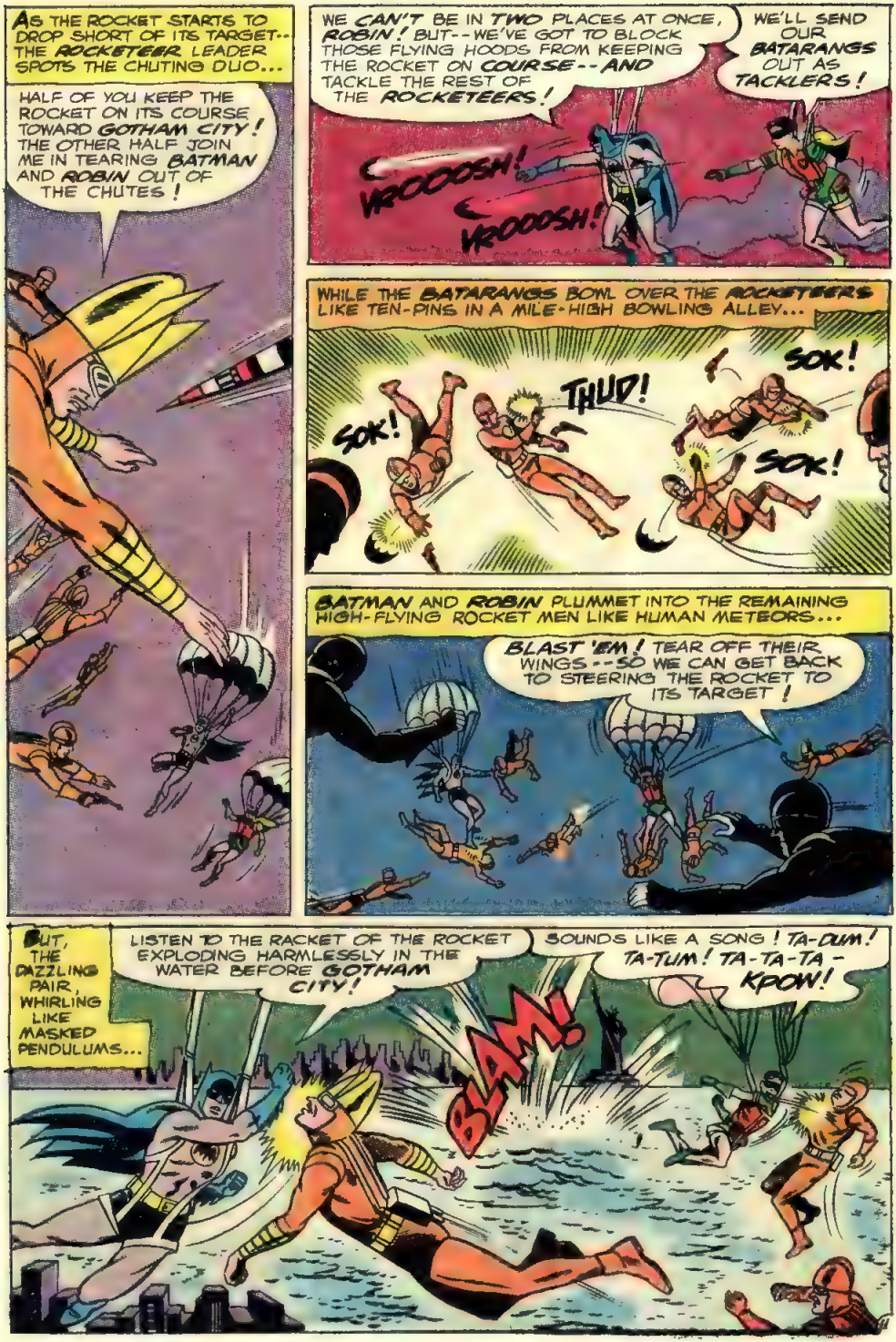
DON'T MISS THIS BATTLE BONUS BLOCKBUSTER! ON SALE DEC. 16th


PART TWO: BATMAN AND ROBIN, THE BOY WONDER, IN THE EXPLOSIVE CONCLUSION TO--"RAID OF THE ROCKETEERS!"
AS THE DYNAMIC DUO SWIMS WITH POWERFUL STROKES TOWARD THE MYSTERIOUS ISLAND...
VROOOOM!
VROOOM!
ROCKET-PROPELLED MEN HEADING THIS WAY! I'VE GOT AN IDEA THEY'RE NOT GOING TO GIVE US THE KEY TO THE CITY!
THEY SURE LOOK LIKE AN UNWELCOMING COMMITTEE!
LIKE HUMAN DIVE-BOMBERS THE MISSILE-LIKE MEN PLUMMET AT THE MASKED MAN-HUNTERS...
SCRATCH ONE ROCKETEER!
SPLASH A RACKETEER!
SMAK!
WHACK!
A-OK!
BLAST THROUGH 'EM!

SUDDENLY... BATMAN WARNS...
LOOK OUT! WE'RE BEING TORPEDOED! ULPH--
YEAH--IT SURE DOESN'T FEEL LIKE IT'S A SARDINE THAT'S TICKLING MY LEGS-- UNPFFF--ULP--!
THE EPIC STRUGGLE CONTINUES UNDER-WATER...
WISH I'D THOUGHT OF...OUT-FITTING ROBIN AND ME... WITH MINIATURE OXYGEN TANKS...INSTEAD OF... CHUTES... FOR... AN... EMER...GEN...CY...
HAVEN'T... EVEN... BREATH... LEFT... FOR... A... WISE... CRACK...
MOMENTS LATER... LIFTED OUT OF AN INLAND WATER-WAY, HEALING AIR REVIVES BATMAN AND ROBIN WHO STARE DAZEDLY AT...
TH-THE MISSING ROCKETS!... WHAT IN... THE WORLD... MADE YOU HIJACK... HARMLESS... ROCKETS?
IS HARMLESS, MY POOR BEWILDERED BATMAN! THE SECOND HAS AN ATOMIC WARHEAD I SORT OF "THREW TOGETHER" FROM ATOMIC ODDS AND ENDS MY ROCKETEERS "BORROWED" FROM HERE AND THERE! YOU ARE JUST IN TIME FOR THE FIRST BLASTOFF!
ONLY THE FIRST ONE
LIKE A SINISTER UNDERWATER BURIAL PARTY, THE ROCKETEERS CARRY THE UNCONSCIOUS DUO TOWARD WHAT LOOKS LIKE A WATERY CRYPT...
8

WITHIN MINUTES, GOTHAM CITY IS STARTLED BY...
A ROCKET--LANDING IN THE MIDDLE OF GOTHAM CITY PARK!
MAYBE IT'S ONE OF THE MISSING ROCKETS--TAKING A DETOUR! HA-HA-HA!
VROOOOSH!
BUT, THE LAUGHTER OF THE CROWD TURNS TO DEAD SILENCE AT THE TERRIBLE THREAT SCRAWLED ON THE OUTSIDE OF THE ROCKET...
WARNING! WE WANT ONE BILLION DOLLARS FOR THE LIFE OF GOTHAM CITY! UNLESS YOU BROADCAST YOUR SURRENDER WITHIN THE HOUR--THE NEXT ROCKET WE SEND OVER WILL CONTAIN AN ATOMIC WARHEAD WHICH WILL TURN THE CITY INTO CINDERS! BY ORDER OF--
THE ROCKETEERS
THE SINISTER SECONDS COME TO AN END WITH...
THIS IS GOTHAM CITY'S REPLY TO THE INFAMOUS ROCKETEERS! IT IS THE ANSWER OF EVERY FREE PEOPLE! WE WILL NEVER SURRENDER! DO YOUR WORST! WE WILL FIGHT CRIME TO THE LAST!
FOOLS! THEY'VE JUST SIGNED THEIR OWN DEATH WARRANT!
GOTHAM CITY THINKS IT HAD TIME TO SET UP DEFENSES AGAINST THE ROCKET! THEY DON'T KNOW WE ROCKETEERS WILL BE IN THE CLOUDS--DIRECTING THE ROCKET AGAINST ANY DIVERSION--STRAIGHT TO ITS TARGET--WITH OUR HOMING BEAMS! AND YOU TWO--WILL BE EYE-WITNESSES TO THAT! INSIDE THE ROCKET ITSELF!
I CAN'T STAND RACKETS! CAN'T I BE SOMEPLACE ELSE?
THE FANTASTIC ROCKETEERS HURTLE TOWARD THEIR SECRET STATION IN THE CLOUDS OVER GOTHAM CITY...
ROCKETEER LEADER TO ROCKETEER FLIGHT! TAKE YOUR STATIONS! TURN ON HOMING SIGNAL TO KEEP ROCKET ON TARGET! OVER!
VROOOM!
AT THAT SAME MOMENT, WITH BATMAN AND ROBIN PRISONERS INSIDE THE EXPLOSIVE MISSILE...
VROOOOM!

FEVERISHLY, THE MASTERS OF ESCAPE WRITHE LIKE HUMAN EELS TO ESCAPE THEIR BONDS, UNTIL ...
WE'VE ONLY GOT A FEW MINUTES!
FEELS LIKE SECONDS!
HOW'RE YOU DOING?
LIKE A MAN IN THE ELECTRIC CHAIR!
I'M FREE! HOW ABOUT YOU!
I'M SKINNED LIKE A RABBIT-- BUT I'M FREE TOO!
FRENZIEDLY THE DYNAMIC DUO SEARCHES THE MAZE OF CONTROLS IN THE HURTLING ROCKET OF DOOM ...
WHERE IS IT? WHERE IS IT? WHERE IS IT?
IF MY HEART WASN'T IN MY MOUTH--I'D ANSWER YOU!
THROUGH A HATCH THE MASKED MARVEL AND BOY WONDER PLUNGE INTO THIN AIR..
NOW--THE ROCKET WILL BLOW UP WITHOUT HARM TO ANYONE LONG BEFORE IT REACHES GOTHAM CITY!
WE'D BETTER PULL OUR CHUTES' EMERGENCY RIP CORDS--- BEFORE WE SPLATTER THE LANDSCAPE!
BUT, AS THE DARING DUO GLIDES TOWARD THE CLOUDS...
IT'S THE ROCKETEERS! IF THEY KEEP THE ROCKET HOMED-IN ON GOTHAM CITY-- THE EXPLOSION WILL FLATTEN THE WHOLE CITY!
CRAAAK!
CRAAK!
FINALLY...
I'VE FOUND THE ABORT SWITCH!
GREAT!--WHAT AM I SAYING? WE'VE LESS THAN FIVE MINUTES TO DITCH THIS "ROMAN CANDLE" BEFORE IT BLOWS UP!


AS THE ROCKET STARTS TO DROP SHORT OF ITS TARGET--THE ROCKETEER LEADER SPOTS THE CHUTING DUO...
HALF OF YOU KEEP THE ROCKET ON ITS COURSE TOWARD GOTHAM CITY! THE OTHER HALF JOIN ME IN TEARING BATMAN AND ROBIN OUT OF THE CHUTES!
WE CAN'T BE IN TWO PLACES AT ONCE, ROBIN! BUT--WE'VE GOT TO BLOCK THOSE FLYING HOODS FROM KEEPING THE ROCKET ON COURSE--AND TACKLE THE REST OF THE ROCKETEERS!
WE'LL SEND OUR BATARANGS OUT AS TACKLERS!
VROOOSH!
VROOOSH!
WHILE THE BATARANGS BOWL OVER THE ROCKETEERS LIKE TEN-PINS IN A MILE-HIGH BOWLING ALLEY...
SOK!
THUD!
SOK!
SOK!
BATMAN AND ROBIN PLUMMET INTO THE REMAINING HIGH-FLYING ROCKET MEN LIKE HUMAN METEORS...
BLAST 'EM! TEAR OFF THEIR WINGS--SO WE CAN GET BACK TO STEERING THE ROCKET TO ITS TARGET!
BUT, THE DAZZLING PAIR, WHIRLING LIKE MASKED PENDULUMS...
LISTEN TO THE RACKET OF THE ROCKET EXPLODING HARMLESSLY IN THE WATER BEFORE GOTHAM CITY!
SOUNDS LIKE A SONG! TA-DUM! TA-TUM! TA-TA-TA-KPOW!
BLAM!

LIKE RAIN, THE BATTERED ROCKETEERS FALL INTO THE HANDS OF THE HARBOR POLICE...
SPLASH!
HERE ARE SOME MORE FISH FOR YOUR NET!
PUT THEM IN A "CAN"-- FOR ABOUT 99 YEARS!
SPLASH!
BUT, AFTER THE ROCKET'S TRIUMPHANT RUN...
I OWE MY SUCCESS TO BATMAN AND ROBIN! I--I WISH THERE WERE SOME WAY OF THANKING THEM...
WHY NOT JUST WRITE BATMAN A LETTER?
AND DON'T FORGET TO SEND IT BY BAT-MAIL!
BACK IN THEIR ORDINARY GUISE AS BRUCE WAYNE AND DICK GRAYSON, THE TIRELESS PAIR STAND BY PROF. NELSON AS...
THE LAST ROCKET'S OFF! BUT--IF ANYTHING HAPPENS TO IT--IF I FAIL AGAIN--I'LL BE HAUNTED BY THE GHOSTS OF THE NELSON GENERALS AS LONG AS I LIVE!
VROOOM!
THUS ENDS ONE OF THE MOST SIZZLING ADVENTURES OF BATMAN AND ROBIN! WATCH THE NEXT ISSUE OF BATMAN FOR A TALE OF SUSPENSE STARRING THE DYNAMIC DUO THAT WILL MAKE YOUR HAIR STAND ON END UNTIL YOU'RE TEN FOOT TALL! DON'T MISS IT!

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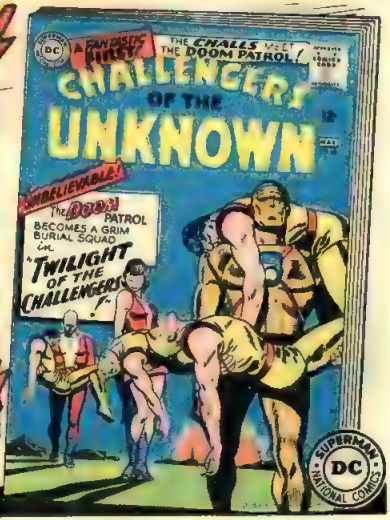
TWO OF THE GREATEST TEAMS OF ALL TIME--

TOGETHER for the FIRST TIME!

The DOOM PATROL THOSE FABULOUS FREAKS HAILED AS "THE WORLD'S STRANGEST HEROES"...

GUEST-STAR with...

"THE LEGION OF DEATH CHEATERS," CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN!


A FAN-TASTIC FIRST!
THE CHALLS MEET THE DOOM PATROL!
CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN
UNBELIEVABLE!
The DOOM PATROL BECOMES A GRIM BURIAL SQUAD in "TWILIGHT OF THE CHALLENGERS!"
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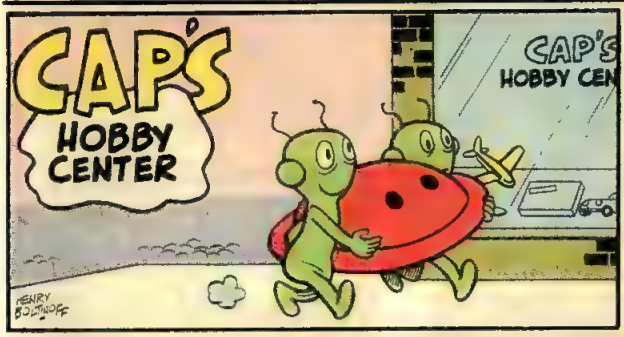
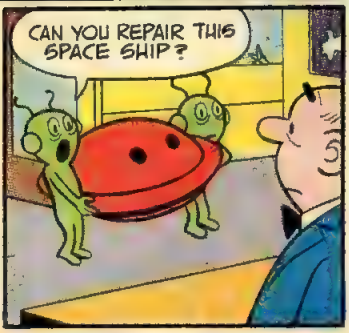
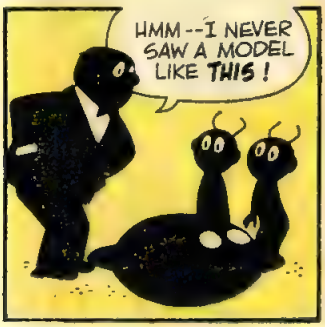
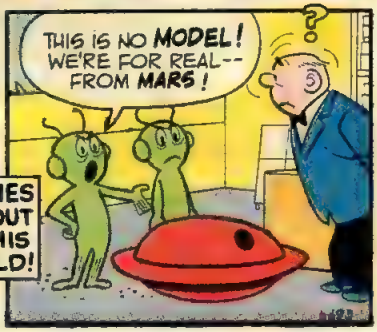

CAP'S HOBBY CENTER
CAP'S HOBBY CEN
HENRY BOLTINOFF

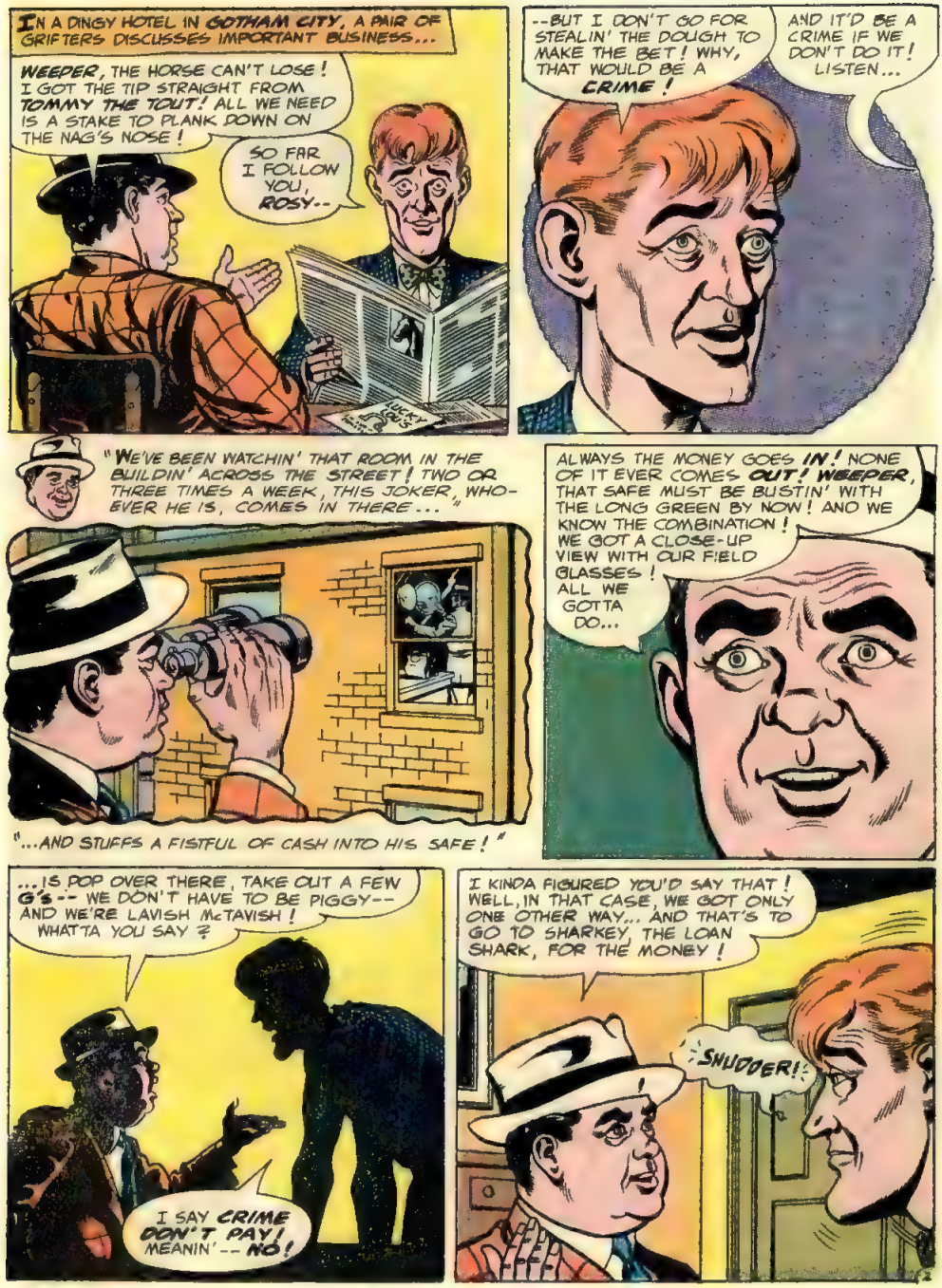

CAN YOU REPAIR THIS SPACE SHIP?


HMM--I NEVER SAW A MODEL LIKE THIS!

I DOUBT IF I CAN FIX IT, BOYS. GUESS YOU'LL HAVE TO DREAM UP SOMETHING ELSE FOR YOUR COSTUME PARTY.
HOBBIES ARE OUT OF THIS WORLD!

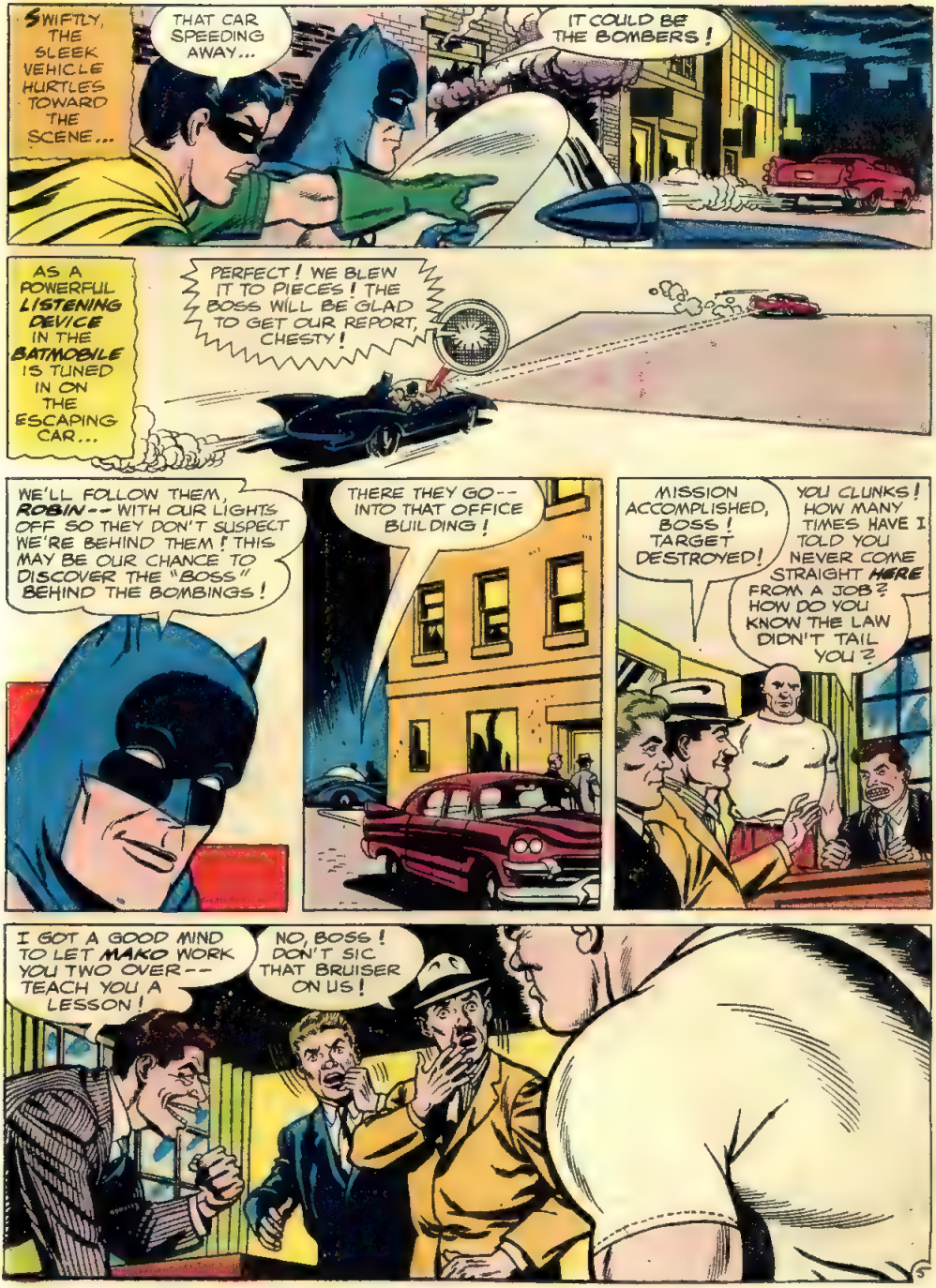

THIS IS NO MODEL! WE'RE FOR REAL--FROM MARS!

BATMAN
With ROBIN THE BOY WONDER
A TRAIL OF MYSTERIOUS BOMBINGS OF HOMES AND OFFICES IN GOTHAM CITY LED BATMAN-- AND HIS INVALUABLE IF DIMINUTIVE ALLY ROBIN-- TO THE LAIR OF A NOTORIOUS LOAN SHARK-- "SHARK" SHARKEY! BUT EVEN AFTER COMING TO GRIPS WITH THIS RUTHLESS FOE, THE DYNAMIC DUO STILL FACED A TANTALIZING PROBLEM--WHERE WAS THE FORTUNE IN CASH SHARKEY HAD FLEECED FROM HIS UN-FORTUNATE CLIENTS?
The LOAN SHARK'S HIDDEN HOARD!
BOB KANE
BATMAN IS KNOCKING OUT MAKO! NOW I'LL HAVE TO SETTLE WITH HIM MYSELF--!


IN A DINGY HOTEL IN GOTHAM CITY, A PAIR OF GRIFTERS DISCUSSES IMPORTANT BUSINESS...
WEEPER, THE HORSE CAN'T LOSE! I GOT THE TIP STRAIGHT FROM TOMMY THE TOUT! ALL WE NEED IS A STAKE TO PLANK DOWN ON THE NAG'S NOSE!
SO FAR I FOLLOW YOU, ROSY--
--BUT I DON'T GO FOR STEALIN' THE DOUGH TO MAKE THE BET! WHY, THAT WOULD BE A CRIME!
AND IT'D BE A CRIME IF WE DON'T DO IT! LISTEN...
"WE'VE BEEN WATCHIN' THAT ROOM IN THE BUILDIN' ACROSS THE STREET! TWO OR THREE TIMES A WEEK, THIS JOKER, WHOEVER HE IS, COMES IN THERE..."
"...AND STUFFS A FISTFUL OF CASH INTO HIS SAFE!"
ALWAYS THE MONEY GOES IN! NONE OF IT EVER COMES OUT! WEEPER, THAT SAFE MUST BE BUSTIN' WITH THE LONG GREEN BY NOW! AND WE KNOW THE COMBINATION! WE GOT A CLOSE-UP VIEW WITH OUR FIELD GLASSES! ALL WE GOTTA DO...
...IS POP OVER THERE, TAKE OUT A FEW G's -- WE DON'T HAVE TO BE PIGGY-- AND WE'RE LAVISH McTAVISH! WHATTA YOU SAY?
I SAY CRIME DON'T PAY! MEANIN' -- NO!
I KINDA FIGURED YOU'D SAY THAT! WELL, IN THAT CASE, WE GOT ONLY ONE OTHER WAY... AND THAT'S TO GO TO SHARKEY, THE LOAN SHARK, FOR THE MONEY!
SHUDDER!

T-TAKE MY ARMS OFF NOW--J-JUST LEAVE ME WITH THE STUMPS! I'D BE BETTER OFF THAT WAY THAN DEALIN' WITH "SHARK" SHARKEY!
CALM DOWN! TELL YOU WHAT.. I'LL GO MYSELF!
I'LL TAKE OUT THE LOAN ON MY OWN!
NO, WAIT, ROSY! WITH US IT'S LIKE DAMON AND SHMAMAN, OR WHATEVER THEIR NAMES ARE! WE'RE PARTNERS--THROUGH THICK AN' THIN! IF YOU GO, I GO!
SOON, IN THE MIDTOWN OFFICES OF THE MONEY LOANER...
BORROW FROM SHARKEY!
SO YOU TWO BOYS WANT A COUPLE OF G'S? AT MY USUAL 100% INTEREST WHAT DOES THAT COME TO, LOUIE? YOU'RE THE BIG BRAIN AROUND HERE...
THEY GET TWO GRAND...THEY GIVE BACK FOUR!
THE LEFT SHOULDER, MAKO! OWW--THAT FEELS GOOD!
BORROW FROM SHARKEY THE LOAN SHARK WITH A SMILE!
WE GIVE TILL IT HURTS YOU!
BUT THEY GOT NO SECURITY, BOSS! AND WE DON'T KNOW THESE GUYS!
THAT'S OKAY, LOUIE! THEIR GOOD HEALTH WILL BE THEIR SECURITY! --OOH! NOT SO HARD, MAKO, YOU BRUTE!
IF THEY DON'T PONY UP ON TIME, THEY'RE LIABLE TO SUFFER A SUDDEN ATTACK OF LEAD POISONING!
OH, WE'LL PAY YOU BACK FIRST THING TOMORROW, MR. SHARKEY, SURE THING!

AFTER THE LOAN SHARK HAS MADE THE DEAL...
WE GOT THE MONEY! QUICK--NOW TO THE TRACK!
BRRR--"LEAD POISONING", HE SAID! I FEEL SICK ALREADY!
AT THE TROTTING RACES, THAT NIGHT...
FORTY DUCATS ON SINGIN' SAM IN THE SIXTH!
AT TEN TO ONE, WEEPER, WE STAND TO COLLECT TWENTY G's!
YEAH...
$50 WIN
...BUT WHAT IF SINGIN' SAM DON'T WIN?
WEEPER, HOW MANY TIMES I TOLD YOU TO LOOK AT THE ROSY SIDE OF THINGS!
MEANWHILE, TWO DYNAMIC FIGURES ARE ON A NIGHT VIGIL TO AID THEIR FRIENDS, THE POLICE...
THEN COMMISSIONER GORDON HAS NO IDEA WHO MIGHT BE BEHIND THE MYSTERIOUS BOMBINGS, BATMAN?
NO, ROBIN--ALL HE KNOWS IS WHAT'S BEEN IN THE PAPERS...
...THAT CERTAIN STORES AND OFFICES IN THIS AREA HAVE BEEN BOMBED OUT--DEMOLISHED! THE CITY HAS BECOME A KIND OF BATTLE-GROUND AND WE'VE GOT TO GET TO THE BOTTOM--EH?
BLAM!
AN EXPLOSION! SOUNDS LIKE ONE OF THE BOMBINGS--!
ONLY A COUPLE OF BLOCKS AWAY!
BLAM!


SWIFTLY, THE SLEEK VEHICLE HURTLES TOWARD THE SCENE...
THAT CAR SPEEDING AWAY...
IT COULD BE THE BOMBERS!
AS A POWERFUL LISTENING DEVICE IN THE BATMOBILE IS TUNED IN ON THE ESCAPING CAR...
PERFECT! WE BLEW IT TO PIECES! THE BOSS WILL BE GLAD TO GET OUR REPORT, CHESTY!
WE'LL FOLLOW THEM, ROBIN -- WITH OUR LIGHTS OFF SO THEY DON'T SUSPECT WE'RE BEHIND THEM! THIS MAY BE OUR CHANCE TO DISCOVER THE "BOSS" BEHIND THE BOMBINGS!
THERE THEY GO -- INTO THAT OFFICE BUILDING!
MISSION ACCOMPLISHED, BOSS! TARGET DESTROYED!
YOU CLUNKS! HOW MANY TIMES HAVE I TOLD YOU NEVER COME STRAIGHT HERE FROM A JOB? HOW DO YOU KNOW THE LAW DIDN'T TAIL YOU?
I GOT A GOOD MIND TO LET MAKO WORK YOU TWO OVER -- TEACH YOU A LESSON!
NO, BOSS! DON'T SIC THAT BRUISER ON US!

THEN, A PAIR OF UN-EXPECTED VISITORS WITHOUT CALLING CARDS...
BATMAN AND ROBIN!?
THAT MUST BE OUR MAN, ROBIN-- THE NOTORIOUS LOAN SHARK-- "SHARK" SHARKEY!
HE LOOKS MORE LIKE A FLOUNDER TO ME!
WHAT RIGHT HAVE YOU GOT BUSTIN' IN HERE? YOU GOT A SEARCH WARRANT?
IF YOU HAVE ANY COMPLAINTS, YOU CAN MAKE THEM AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS! WE'RE TAKING ALL OF YOU THERE NOW!
LET'S GO! I ADVISE YOU ALL TO COME PEACEFULLY...
MAKO! HE'S GRABBED HOLD OF ME! MAKO--!
AT ONCE, THE GIANT STOOGE AND BODY-GUARD SPRINGS LIKE A HUGE CAT...
BREAK HIM, MAKO! BREAK HIM!
BUT THE STEEL-MUSCLED MAN-HUNTER IS EQUAL TO THE SURPRISE ATTACK...
WHAM!

THEN, WITH A SWIFT FOLLOW-UP MOTION...
WHEN BATMAN GETS MAD-- LOOK OUT!
POW!
HE KNOCKED OUT MAKO!? NOW OR NEVER, FOR THE "SHARK" TO SHOW HIS TEETH!
WHAT'S SHARKEY UP TO?
AS THE GANG LEADER TRIES TO GUN DOWN BATMAN, THE COWLED CRUSADER'S YOUNG ALLY SLIDES HIMSELF ACROSS THE DESK-TOP...
UHH...
SPOILED HIS AIM...
CONTINUING HIS DESK-SLIDE, THE BOY WONDER ADMINISTERS THE 'COUP De GRACE' AGAINST HIS FOE...
OOOF!
... AND HIS APPETITE!
GREAT GOING, ROBIN! I'VE GOT HIS GUN!
MEANWHILE, ONE MEMBER OF THE GANG BEATS AN UNOBSERVED RETREAT...
SHARKEY AND THOSE OTHERS ARE DONE FOR! I'M GETTING OUT OF HERE!
OKAY, BATMAN! WE GIVE UP!
CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING.

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YOU HAVE THAT CERTAIN NOTHING
SEND MONEY!
VOTE FOR PAID STUDY PERIODS
MEMO FROM CELL BLOCK NO. 7356!
SEND A KID TO CAMP ... ME!
YOU SHOULD GO TO HOLLYWOOD ... THE WAY WORLD DO YOU GOOD
VOTE FOR A 3½ DAY SCHOOL WEEK
SQUARES GO HOME!
LET'S BE PEN PALS
MEMO FROM ANOTHER PLANET
USE YOUR HEAD

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For which I have enclosed ..... Sorry NO C.O.D.'s

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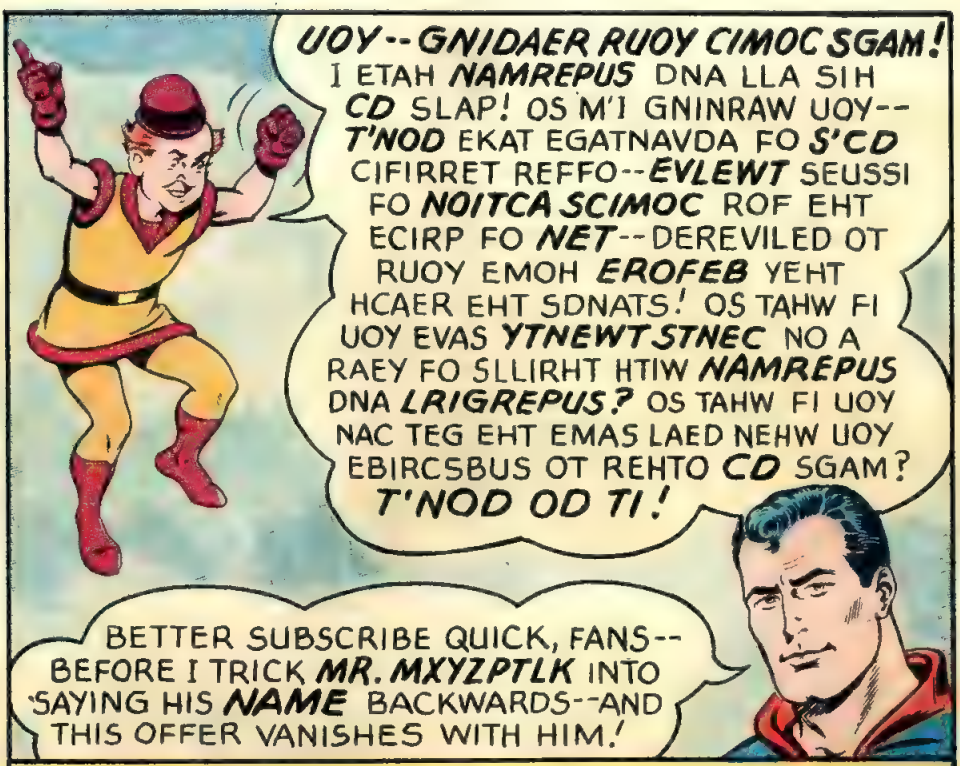
UOY--GNIDAER RUOY CIMOC SGAM!
I ETAH NAMREPUS DNA LLA SIH CD SLAP! OS M'I GNINRAW UOY--T'NOD EKAT EGATNAVDA FO S'CD CIFIRRET REFFO--EVLEWT SEUSSI FO NOITCA SCIMOC ROF EHT ECIRP FO NET--DEREVILED OT RUOY EMOH EROFEB YEHT HCAER EHT SDNATS! OS TAHW FI UOY EVAS YTNEWTSTNEC NO A RAEY FO SLLIRHT HTIW NAMREPUS DNA LRIGREPUS? OS TAHW FI UOY NAC TEG EHT EMAS LAED NEHW UOY EBIRCSBUS OT REHTO CD SGAM? T'NOD OD TI!
BETTER SUBSCRIBE QUICK, FANS--BEFORE I TRICK MR. MXYZPTLK INTO SAYING HIS NAME BACKWARDS--AND THIS OFFER VANISHES WITH HIM!

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RUN, EVERYBODY! SUPERMAN'S CHANGED INTO A DRAGON WITH A RED CAPE AND ITS MELTING THAT BRONZE SCROLL WITH FLAMES FROM ITS EYES!
WHAT DRAGON? HAVE THESE COLLEGE PROFS FLIPPED? I'M ONLY DOING WHAT THEY ASKED ME TO DO--AUTOGRAPHING THEIR HONOR SCROLL WITH MY HEAT VISION!
IS THE MAN OF STEEL A SUPERMAN... OR A SUPER-MONSTER?
The Verdict's YOURS!

- ☐ ARMY AT WAR
- ☐ CHALLENGERS
- ☐ BATMAN
- ☐ FLASH
- ☐ DOOM PATROL
- ☐ ATOM
- ☐ BOB HOPE
- ☐ BLACKHAWK
- ☐ MYSTERY IN SPACE
- ☐ JUSTICE LEAGUE
- ☐ HAWKMAN
- ☐ G.I. COMBAT
- ☐ WORLD'S FINEST
- ☐ SUPERMAN
- ☐ WONDER WOMAN
- ☐ SUGAR & SPIKE
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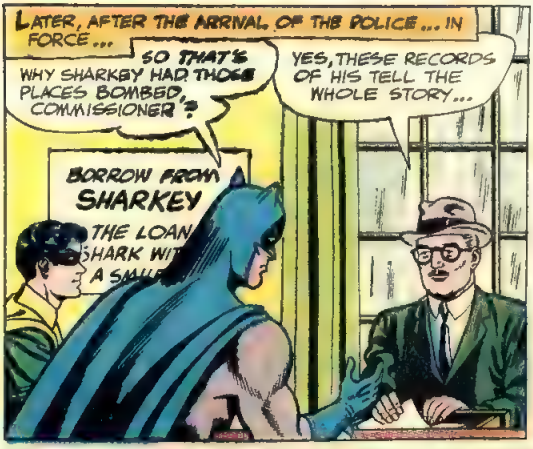
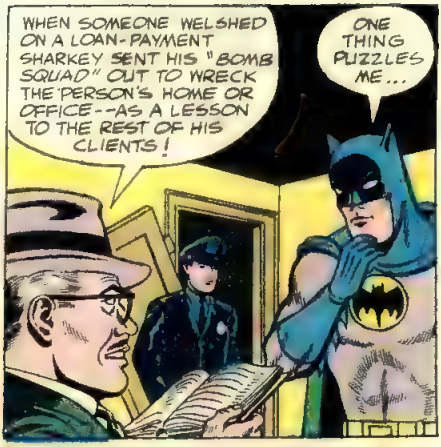
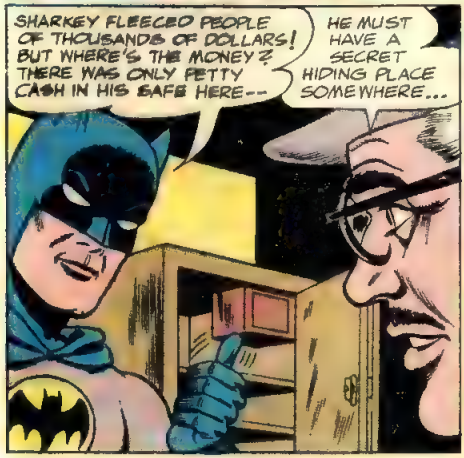
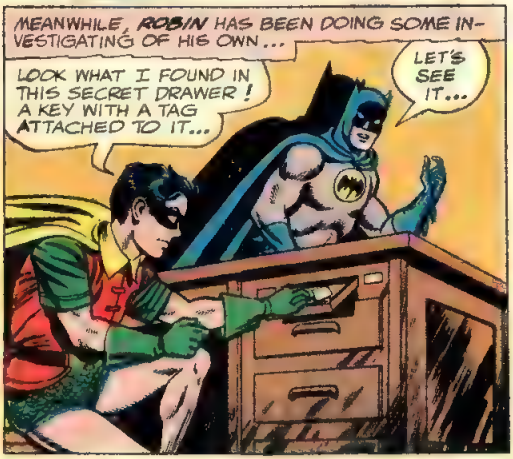

LATER, AFTER THE ARRIVAL OF THE POLICE... IN FORCE...
SO THAT'S WHY SHARKEY HAD THOSE PLACES BOMBED, COMMISSIONER?
YES, THESE RECORDS OF HIS TELL THE WHOLE STORY...
BORROW FROM SHARKEY
THE LOAN SHARK WIT A SMI


WHEN SOMEONE WELSHED ON A LOAN-PAYMENT SHARKEY SENT HIS "BOMB SQUAD" OUT TO WRECK THE PERSON'S HOME OR OFFICE--AS A LESSON TO THE REST OF HIS CLIENTS!
ONE THING PUZZLES ME...


SHARKEY FLEECED PEOPLE OF THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS! BUT WHERE'S THE MONEY? THERE WAS ONLY PETTY CASH IN HIS SAFE HERE--
HE MUST HAVE A SECRET HIDING PLACE SOMEWHERE...


MEANWHILE, ROBIN HAS BEEN DOING SOME INVESTIGATING OF HIS OWN...
LOOK WHAT I FOUND IN THIS SECRET DRAWER! A KEY WITH A TAG ATTACHED TO IT...
LET'S SEE IT...

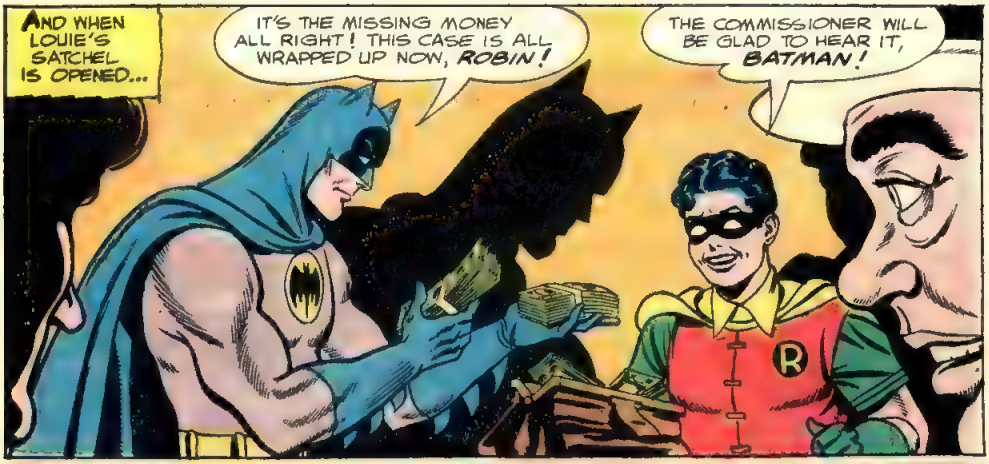
THE TAG HAS AN ADDRESS--IN MIDTOWN! Hmm! MAYBE THIS IS THE ANSWER TO SHARKEY'S HIDDEN HOARD! OKAY WITH YOU, COMMISSIONER, IF ROBIN AND I CHECK THIS ADDRESS RIGHT AWAY?
GO AHEAD, BATMAN! AND WHILE YOU DO...

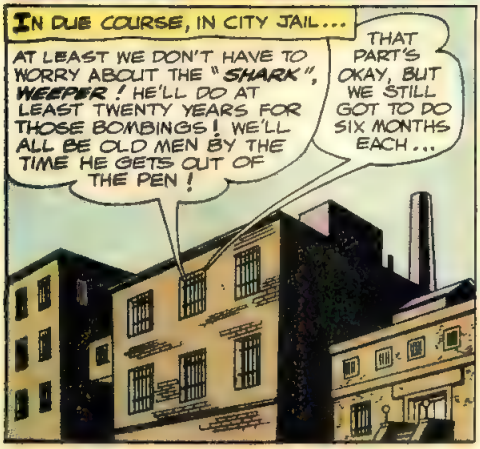
...MY MEN AND I WILL CONTINUE OUR INVESTIGATION INTO SHARKEY'S RECORDS!

IN THE MEANTIME, SAD TO RELATE, SINGIN' SAM HAS FINISHED OUT OF THE MONEY...
THAT HORSE WAS A-- A DOG! WHEN I GET MY HANDS ON TOMMY THE TOUT--!
NEVER MIND TOMMY! WORRY ABOUT US!
WE OWE THE SHARK FOUR GRAND AND WE JUST GOT FORTY CENTS BETWEEN US! HE SURE AIN'T GONNA SETTLE FOR THAT!
WHERE THERE'S A WILL-- THERE'S A WAY! COME ON!
SHORTLY...
Y-YOU'RE NOT GOIN' IN HERE, ROSY?!
SHHHH-- FOLLOW ME...
B-BUT THIS IS THAT ROOM-- WHERE THE SAFE-MONEY IS! YOU'RE GONNA STEAL IT--?
WELL, I AIN'T COME HERE TO GET A HAIRCUT! HELP ME-- WE GOT TO SMASH THIS DOOR OPEN--!
9
SOON...
18 RIGHT... 12 LEFT... WATCH OUT, WEEPER! THIS SAFE IS CRAMMED SO FULLA DOUGH, THE STUFF WILL BUST RIGHT OUT WHEN I OPEN IT! IT'S LIABLE TO FLY ALL OVER THE ROOM...!
DUCK-- HERE IT COMES--!
CLICK!!
9

A MOMENT OR SO LATER...
OH-OH! ROSY, TAKE A LOOK...
NOTHIN' HAPPENED?!
--IT'S EMPTY!
IT AIN'T POSSIBLE!
...CREAK...
ALL RIGHT, YOU TWO! WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
B-BATMAN AND ROBIN!? NOW WE ARE IN TROUBLE, ROSY!
AS THE TWO GRIFTERS DECIDE TO MAKE A CLEAN BREAST OF EVERYTHING...
...AND WHEN WE GOT IN WE OPENED THE SAFE--BUT IT WAS EMPTY! WE DIDN'T STEAL ANYTHING...
IT'S ALL TRUE, BATMAN--HONEST!
THE MAN THEY SAW PUTTING MONEY IN THAT SAFE COULD ONLY HAVE BEEN SHARKEY...
RIGHT! BUT SHARKEY DIDN'T TAKE IT OUT! THERE WAS ONE MEMBER OF THE GANG...
...THAT WE DIDN'T CAPTURE, THE "SHARK'S LIEUTENANT, KNOWN AS LOUIE! HE MUST HAVE GRABBED THE MONEY FOR HIMSELF! IT WOULD HAVE BEEN EASY FOR HIM, WORKING CLOSE TO SHARKEY, TO HAVE LEARNED THE SAFE COMBINATION! BUT WAIT A SECOND...

AS THE MASKED MANHUNTER, FOLLOWING UP AN IDEA, QUERIES THE TWO WOULD-BE-CROOKS AGAIN...
YOU SAY WHEN YOU CAME HERE YOU FOUND THE DOOR UNLOCKED?
THAT'S RIGHT, BATMAN! WEEPER AND I WERE READY TO BUST IN-- BUT WE FOUND THE DOOR OPEN!
DOESN'T THAT STRIKE YOU AS STRANGE, ROBIN? A MAN WHO WAS CAREFUL ENOUGH TO LOCK THE SAFE AFTER TAKING THE MONEY WOULD ALSO BE CAREFUL ENOUGH TO LOCK THE DOOR WHEN HE LEFT!
THAT'S RIGHT! THEN THAT MUST MEAN...
--THAT IF HE DIDN'T LOCK THE DOOR-- IT COULD BE BECAUSE HE DIDN'T HAVE A CHANCE TO LEAVE -- HE HEARD THOSE TWO GUYS OUTSIDE! AND IF HE'S STILL HERE --
AS BATMAN SOFTSHOES HIS WAY TO THE ROOM'S ONLY CLOSET...
NEXT INSTANT HE YANKS IT OPEN...
YOU WON'T GET ME, BATMAN!
BUT IT IS THE COWLED CRUSADER WHO ACTS FIRST...


AND WHEN LOUIE'S SATCHEL IS OPENED...
IT'S THE MISSING MONEY ALL RIGHT! THIS CASE IS ALL WRAPPED UP NOW, ROBIN!
THE COMMISSIONER WILL BE GLAD TO HEAR IT, BATMAN!


IN DUE COURSE, IN CITY JAIL...
AT LEAST WE DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THE "SHARK", WEEPER! HE'LL DO AT LEAST TWENTY YEARS FOR THOSE BOMBINGS! WE'LL ALL BE OLD MEN BY THE TIME HE GETS OUT OF THE PEN!
THAT PART'S OKAY, BUT WE STILL GOT TO DO SIX MONTHS EACH...

...FOR ATTEMPTED ROBBERY, FIRST OFFENSE! AND BELIEVE ME, IT'LL BE MY LAST OFFENSE! I TOLD YOU A MILLION TIMES, ROSY--CRIME DON'T PAY!
YOU'RE RIGHT!
THE END

The BEGINNING-- and The END!

IN 1939, BATMAN MADE HIS DRAMATIC DEBUT IN Detective COMICS!

NOW-- 26 YEARS LATER, THE MASKED MANHUNTER'S CAREER COMES TO AN END-- OR DOES IT?!

You BE THE JUDGE WHEN YOU READ "The STRANGE DEATH of BATMAN!" in

LETTERS TO THE BATCAVE

Dear Editor: *Batman* 174 (September) truly combined all the characteristics that make the *Cowled Crusader* the apex of crime-fighters; these elements are as follows: scientific knowledge (the photosynthesis of the *florameter*), *Batman's* photographic memory, puns, and plenty of action; *Batman's* ability to triumph is even greater when one considers that these were no ordinary-calibre moronic criminals with whom he was competing. However, in the future I would like Robin to play a more integral part in the stories.

In "The Off-Again On-Again Lightbulbs"you incorrectly labeled *Batman's* underwater hold as a "hammerlock." This hold is a "full-nelson" and is illegal in American wrestling. I am surprised that the *Masked Manhunter* would resort to such unsportsmanlike conduct even against criminals. —*John Thelin, Whittier, Cal.*

(Don't pin the blame on *Batman* for using that illegal wrestling hold. It was an *artistic* mistake which our editorial eye missed. Three pats on the back for your sharp eye-detection. —*Editor*)

* * *

Dear Editor: How you ever thought up a trap like the one cover-featured in "The Human Punching Bag" is beyond me. The *Masked Manhunter* has been caught in almost every type of trap conceivable and has discovered a means of escape on every occasion. We've yet to see the end when criminals finally decide that there is seemingly no trap conceivable from which *Batman* can not improvise a way out of.

This particular yarn really "hooked" me because (1) *Batman's* agility and muscularity were vividly depicted when he was in combat against the criminals; (2) The idea of a big game hunter producing the desire to trap the *Foe of Felons* (how's that for a nickname?) solely for the honor of being the only person to do so was something new.

The second story, "The Off-Again On-Again Lightbulbs," again demonstrated Bob Kane's increasingly developed talent of bringing words to vivid life. The plot was not unusual but it clearly showed the other members of the *Mystery Analysts* that in solving baffling crimes they may have to risk their lives even as *Batman* does. Please maintain the purpose for their formation: to solve *mysterious* crimes. —*Robert O'Donnell, Brooklyn, N.Y.*

(We flipped for your *Foe of Felons* nickname. After all, it does get tiresome and repetitious to refer to our hero as *Batman* over and over again—all of which pre-answers the letter that follows. —*Editor*)

* * *

Dear Editor: The September *Batman* was very good but why does *Batman* have so many nicknames? You also refer to him as the *Masked Manhunter*, the *Cowled Crusader*, the *Gotham Gangbuster*, the *World's Greatest Detective* and probably many more that I've overlooked. Can't you just call him by that one *Batman* name? —*David McLaughlin, Chilliwack, B.C., Canada.*

* * *

Dear Editor: *Batman should be dead*—not that I'm saying I want *Batman* to be dead, but in "The Human Punching Bag" he *should* have been!

When the flower was in the bag with *Batman* he should have conked out from lack of air because after the flower was picked, it couldn't give off any oxygen. And don't say that this was a special kind of flower which could live without roots because this is biologically impossible! —*Ronnie Schwartz, Fair Lawn, N.J.*

(But my dear Miss Schwartz—we must *so* say so! On page 7, *Batman* clearly states that the flower was "an invention" of the scientists working at the *Alfred Foundation*—"a mechanical device called a *florameter!* It . . . duplicates the respiratory processes of a flower . . ." How's that for one Schwartz telling off another! —*Editor*)

* * *

Dear Editor: *Batman* 174 was great. The *Caped Crime-Fighters* are just terrific in your magazines. I sure liked that issue from the first page of "The Human Punching Bag" right through the last page of "The Off-Again On-Again Lightbulbs!"

I read one of your magazines of *Batman* and after I finished it, I said to myself, "I should start a collection of *Batman* comics!" —*George Davis, Nashville, Tenn.*

(Saving *Batman* comics is almost like putting money in the bank. Did you know that some of the very earliest *Batman* issues command a price of about $50! —*Editor*)

* * *

Dear Editor: I've been reading your *Batman* books for about seven years. I was wondering if you knew about this small article that appeared in the *Detroit News* for September 2, 1965. If so, what can you tell us about it? —*G. Allan Poole, Garden City, Mich.*

(The article correspondent Poole sent us reads, "ABC-TV, making no more secret about the level of inspiration that network series entertainment has reached, is planning on a test film for a possible one-hour weekly program based on the comic strip, The Batman." All we can do at the moment is *confirm* the news item, and ask you to watch this department for what we hope will be the most electrifying TV news of the Fall, 1966 season! —*Editor*)

Address communications to LETTERS TO THE BATCAVE, National Periodical Publications, 575 Lexington Avenue, New York, N.Y., 10022.

WARDEN WILLIS
WARDEN, THAT MATTRESS IS OLD AND LUMPY. IT'S KILLING MY BACK!
7411
I HAVEN'T HAD A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP IN WEEKS, IT'S SO HARD!
7411
WELL, I'LL SEE ABOUT GETTING YOU A NEW MATTRESS!
7411
NEXT DAY..
WARDEN, REMEMBER THAT PRISONER WHO COMPLAINED ABOUT HIS MATTRESS BEING HARD AND LUMPY?
YES, I DO!
WELL, LOOK AT HIM NOW!
ZZZ
END

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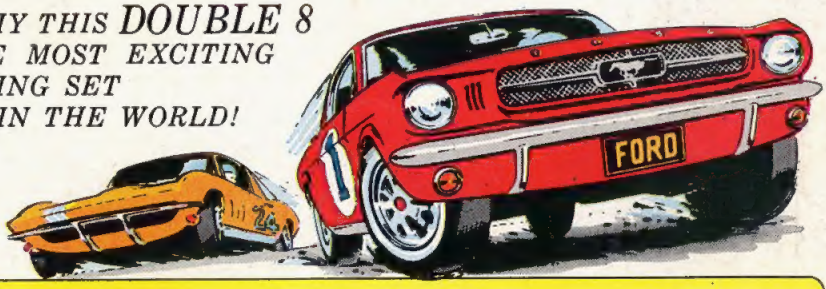

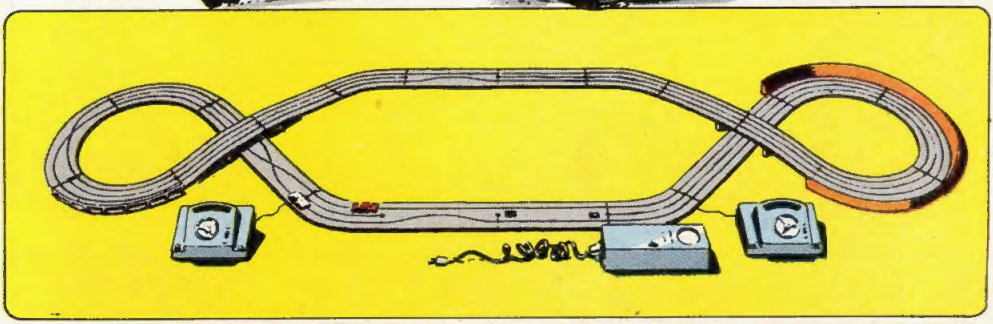

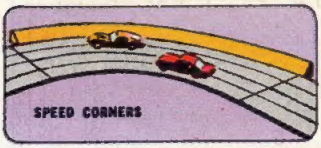

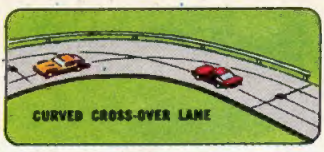

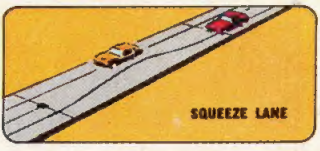

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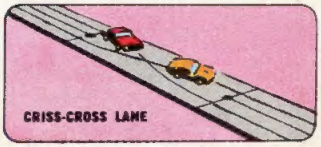

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